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When I heard about the recent events regarding closed captioning, I was shocked. I am a sign language interpreter-in-training in a college program. In classes, we learned about the laws governing closed captioning and the FCC. The law was passed in 1996 and the FCC established the directive rules in 1998. Currently, all new television programs must have closed captioning, with some exceptions. This is essential and must continue. Deaf and Hard of Hearing people must have the same access to everything that hearing people have. The spoken word must be made available in text to accompany the action on the screen. As the law states, all programs should have closed captioning, without any exemptions.

Therefore, I oppose this request because the Petitioner failed to demonstrate that providing closed captioning would impose an undue burden (too difficult or too expensive). I urge the FCC to deny this request and require the Petitioner to comply with the closed captioning rules within 90 days.

The FCC must support Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers and must enforce the closed captioning rules!

Thank you,  
Michelle J. Newton